1   <u>ABSTRACT</u>

2   A bench-top pill counter accurately and automatically counts a wide

3   variety of shapes and sizes of pharmaceutical pills and capsules, having a variety of

4   coatings. A rotating bowl, periodically shaken during rotation, is combined with a

5   fixed, flared spiral guide ramp causing pills to distribute individually on an annular

6   ledge in the bowl. The pills are dispensed from the bowl onto a sloped slide and

7   counted at the bottom of the slide by an optical counter. The micro-computer

8   determines an optimum speed and shake algorithm for the bowl, based on the

9   characteristics such as the size and shape of the pills, so that the pills distribute

10   individually and only one pill at a time passes the counter.

11